

DOES NOT APPLY TO OURS.

A writer in the *Homiletic Review*, in speaking of "Helps" for the Sunday-school teacher, says: "The 'Helps' as a rule are written by clergymen and only from the standpoint as to the meaning of the different passages. When the writers come to the question of how these passages are to be applied to the scholar, there the 'Helps' are at fault. They do not succeed in furnishing the necessary applications," etc.

The writer evidently never saw the Brethren Quarterly or he would have made one single exception to the above charge. This is one of the points of superiority of our quarterly over that of many others—it is eminently *practical*. Under the heading, "Helps in Studying the Lesson," will be found a correct exegesis of the text, enabling the teacher and scholar to get at the real meaning of the Scripture to be studied. Under "Life Teachings," is given a practical application of the text. The truths taught in the lesson are brought out and *applied*. Most "Lesson Helps" are at fault in this particular. The Brethren Quarterly is not. We feel that our Sunday-school literature deserves a larger field than it finds among our own people, and we therefore ask your co operation in our efforts to introduce it into other schools, and thus increase its circulation and its usefulness. Please send us the names of superintendents of Union schools with which you are acquainted.

HOW TO READ THE BIBLE.

There are a great many different ways of reading the Bible—successful ways. Then there are many ways of reading the blessed book without profit. Everything depends on the one who reads. "How readest thou?" and "Understandest thou what thou readest?" are questions as applicable now as they were when asked by Jesus and his disciple Philip. It is impossible to give any "set" rules by which to read the Holy Scriptures. Yet there are some general rules, which if observed, will be a great help in the study of the Book of books. A very eminent minister and successful pastor, in a sermon, delivered to his people, gave these rules as helpful. We commend them to the consideration of all Bible readers.

(1) In reading Holy Scriptures keep steadily before you its purpose of teaching you the will of God and the way of salvation through Jesus Christ.

(2) Let its beautiful histories, and the

many interesting questions which arise out of it, serve (as they are doubtless intended) to engage your attention, and to help you to look to God's dealings with man in many different points of view; but never read or search into them in mere spirit of curiosity, or let them detract you from its one great purpose.

(3) Read it reverently; remembering that God caused the books to be written as they are, and to come down to us as we have them; and that He is speaking to you through them.

(4) Read it thankfully; blessing God who has caused it to be written for your learning; and often reflecting how sadly in the dark we should have been without its guiding light, and what blessed hope you have through it, which, without it, you would not have had.

(5) Read it prayerfully. It is well to offer a short prayer before reading; but I mean as to the whole spirit of your reading; read with the wish and the expectation that the voice of God in Holy Scripture may speak to your heart and conscience, and that you may be better for reading that portion which is before you.

(6) Read it humbly; remembering that a book which God has caused to be written by men gifted with His Holy Spirit for that purpose, must be, very much of it, far above us; that we must be content to wait till God shall give us more light; and that meanwhile He will enable us to know all that is good and needful for us to know.

INDIVIDUAL EFFORT.

Our individual needs are many. The church's needs are many. But there is *one* thing which it seems to us is specially needed now. It is, *Individual Effort* in Christian work. We speak of the church as accomplishing a great work. But what is the church? What makes up the organization, we call the "church?" Men and women. A church is successful in the prosecution of the Lord's work only to the extent of the individual effort of its members. Does it ever occur to you that Christ never gave a command to the church, that is not addressed, with equal emphasis, to each individual member of the church? The church has no duty that is not *your* duty, individually. Christ commands *you* to teach all nations. Sometimes we hear church members say that the church does not do its duty. They find fault with the *church*, and in so doing they unconsciously condemn themselves.

Let each member of the church remem-

ber this one thing: That whatever is the church's duty is his duty also. Should the church be engaged in saving souls? Do *you* go out into the highways and hedges to bring them in? Do you make a personal, hand to hand and face to face effort to bring the lost to Christ? Should the church be engaged in works of charity? What are *you* doing by way of supporting its charities? Are you not a part of the church? You cannot divide responsibility. You do not escape personal, individual responsibility, because you are associated with a mass of people. Your individuality is not lost in the "crowd." Individuality and personal responsibility are inseparable. It is an awful thought—personal responsibility to God. Have we discharged our obligation, and met this personal responsibility, by a personal, individual effort to save souls? Think on these things.

Personal Mention.

Brother W. A. Welty, spent Sabbath at Mansfield, Ohio.

Brother Joshua Long is now holding meetings at Mapleville, Md.

Sister M. M. Sterling reports three accessions at McVeytown, Pa.

Brother C. Beeghley is absent from school on account of sickness.

Brother Darling spent his vacation among friends in New York State.

Brother W. W. Summers received three members into fellowship by baptism at College Corner, Ind.

Sister Keim returned from her visit to Louisville, O., where she spent Christmas and New Year, among friends.

Brother Fox closed a meeting at Lake Odessa, Mich., with nine accessions, five by baptism and four by relation.

Brother T. J. Fahrney reports a very successful meeting held at Downsville, Md., by brother Joshua Long. Following is the result: Thirty-five accessions.

Sister Sylvia Snyder reports a meeting held at Pleasant View, Indiana, by brother I. N. Miller, resulting in seventeen accessions, fifteen by baptism, and two by relation.

Brother Elijah Berkey, after receiving our premium Bible writes: "It is a fine book, excellent print, good in all respects. Indeed all Bible students wishing a work of this kind would do well to patronize the Brethren Tract Committee at Ashland, Ohio." Thank you Brother Berkey.